

REMARKS

Claims 1-17, 19, and 20 are presented for further examination. Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-17, 19, and 20 have been amended. Claim 18 has been canceled.

In the Office Action mailed May 27, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 9-10 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,295,166 ("Shanley II et al."). Claims 1-8 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,400,086 ("Sano et al.") in view of Shanley II et al.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the bases for the rejection and request reconsideration and further examination of the claims.

As set forth on page 8 of the specification in the present application, a brightness limitation block (32) is implemented in order to overcome difficulties with prior brightness controls. More particularly, the brightness limitation block (32) receives signals of Rblack, Gblack, and Bblack from respective control blocks. A minimum detector (36), preferably implemented with diodes, selects only one of the three input signals with the lowest voltage. This signal is reflected on the output of the minimum detector (36). A comparison is made between the voltage at a negative input and a positive input of a comparator (34) in the brightness limitation block (32), the output of which is used for controlling the brightness adjustment to prohibit signal clipping.

Shanley II et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,295,166, is directed to a failure compensated automated kinescope beam current limiter. At column 3, lines 35-42, Shanley II et al. teach that the brightness regulation is done based on only one channel (the blue channel), which is shown in Figure 1 by the connection of the blue (b) signal output of matrix (18) and a reference input of a comparator (55). Nowhere do Shanley II et al. teach or suggest the construction of a minimum detector, or a minimum detector implemented with diodes.

Sano et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,400,086, teach a color CRT drive apparatus and CRT display including a brightness adjustment that, as the Examiner noted, provides a brightness limitation circuit coupled to each color channel reference signal and providing a feedback signal to separately regulate the brightness level of each video signal by three separate comparisons (59R), (59G), and (59B). As the Examiner also notes, Sano et al. do not disclose a comparison

of a minimum signal level amongst the color channel reference signals and a fixed reference signal level.

Claim 1 is directed to a video signal processing system that comprises a plurality of color channels, a control circuit and clamping circuit for generating a color channel reference signal and controlling a color channel video signal for each color channel, and a brightness limitation circuit coupled to receive the color channel reference signal from each of the color channels and coupled to provide a feedback signal to regulate a brightness level of each video signal according to a comparison of a minimum signal level selected from among the color channel reference signals and a fixed reference signal level. As discussed above, nowhere do Shanley II et al. taken alone or in combination with Sano et al. teach or suggest comparison of a minimum signal level selected from among the color channel reference signals and a fixed reference signal level. Rather, Shanley II et al. specifically teach the comparison of only one color signal level, the blue signal in particular, instead of selecting the minimum signal level from among the color channel reference signals. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and dependent claims 2-8 are clearly allowable over the references cited and applied by the Examiner.

Independent claims 9, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, and 20 have all been amended to recite the detection of a minimum signal level from among the plurality of color reference signals as discussed above with respect to claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that all of these claims, and all claims depending therefrom, as well as independent claim 13, are allowable for the reasons claim 1 is allowable.

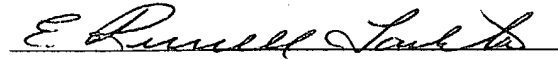
In view of the foregoing, applicants submit that all of the claims remaining in this application are in condition for allowance. In the event the Examiner finds minor informalities that can be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is urged to contact applicants' undersigned representative by telephone at (206) 622-4900 in order to expeditiously resolve prosecution of this application. Consequently, early and favorable action allowing these claims and passing this case to issuance is respectfully solicited.

Application No. 09/674,355
Reply to Office Action dated May 27, 2004

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,

SEED Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC



E. Russell Tarleton
Registration No. 31,800

ERT:alb

Enclosure:
Postcard

701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6300
Seattle, Washington 98104-7092
Phone: (206) 622-4900
Fax: (206) 682-6031

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